

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15
/062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DRTELLEN:JES
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX
-----018584 202249Z /12
P R 202112Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 143038

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NP

SUBJECT: N.Y. TIMES INTERVIEW WITH B.P. KOIRALA

1. NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 20 CARRIES ARTICLE ON PAGE 7 BY
PRANAY GUPTA BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH B.P. KOIRALA, WHO HAS
REMAINED IN NEW YORK FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT RATHER THAN GOING
TO HOUSTON AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS: EX-LEADER OF NEPAL BARS FURTHER EXILE -
KOIRALA, FREED FOR CARE IN U.S., SAYS HE WILL RETURN HOME -

A LONG-DETAINED FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL, RELEASED
TO GET MEDICAL CARE IN NEW YORK, SAYS HE WILL RETURN HOME
EVEN THOUGH HE FACES ARREST, TRIAL AND A POSSIBLE DEATH
SENTENCE.

"IT IS MY HOME, I CANNOT REALLY STAY AWAY," SAID 63-YEAR
-OLD B.P. KOIRALA THE OTHER DAY IN THE BEEKMAN PLACE
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APARTMENT OF HIS NEPHEW, SHAIL UPADHYA.

MR. KOIRALA SPENT SEVEN MONTHS IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
IN A JAIL IN KATHMANDU, THE CAPITAL OF NEPAL, A MOUNTAINOUS
KINGDOM OF 12 MILLION PEOPLE BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA. HE
WAS CHARGED WITH TREASON, INCITING TO MURDER, ARSON AND SEDI-

TION -- EACH OF WHICH CARRIES A MANDATORY DEATH SENTENCE.

ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO, HE RECALLED, HE WAS SUMMONED BY KING BIRENDRA TO THE ROYAL PALACE AND TOLD BY THE 29-YEAR-OLD RULER THAT PRISON PHYSICIANS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT MR. KOIRALA WAS CRITICALLY ILL FROM AN ARTERIAL MALADY AND THAT MEDICAL TREATMENT WAS URGENT.

MINUTES AFTER THE AUDIENCE, MR. KOIRALA SAID, HE WAS RUSHED TO THE KATHMANDU AIRPORT AND FLOWN TO NEW DELHI. HE WAS GIVEN 5,000 DOLS FOR TRAVELING EXPENSE, HE SAID, AND ALSO ASSURANCES THAT ALL HIS MEDICAL EXPENSES IN THE UNITED STATES--A COUNTRY THAT NEPALESE ROYAL PHYSICIANS HAD APPARENTLY RECOMMENDED FOR TREATMENT--WOULD BE BORNE BY THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT.

FROM NEW DELHI, MR. KOIRALA FLEW TO BOMBAY, WHERE HE MET WITH HIS FRIEND, JAYA PRAKASH NARAYAN, ELDER STATESMAN OF THE INDIAN POLITICAL SCENE, THEN FLEW TO NEW YORK.

MR. KOIRALA, WHO IS CONVALESCING IN NEW YORK HOSPITAL AFTER SURGERY, SAID THAT LOBBYING IN HIS BEHALF BY INDIAN LEADERS SUCH AS MR. NARAYAN, AS MUCH AS HIS MEDICAL CONDITION, HAD PROBABLY PROMPTED KING BIRENDRA'S ACTION.

"OF COURSE, THE KING IS TAKING A CHANCE BY RELEASING ME-
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-BUT HE KNOWS THAT I'LL GO BACK BECAUSE I MADE A PLEDGE TO HIM," MR. KOIRALA SAID, "MY MISSION IS NOT YET OVER. I WENT BACK TO NEPAL IN THE FIRST PLACE TO ACHIEVE SOME KIND OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND THAT TASK STILL REMAINS."

HE WAS REFERRING TO HIS RETURN TO NEPAL LAST DEC. 30 AFTER LONG EXILE IN INDIA. HE RETURNED THEN, MR. KOIRALA SAID, BECAUSE HE HAD NOT BEEN "MADE TO FEEL WELCOME BY INDIRA GANDHI'S GOVERNMENT," WHICH FOLLOWERS OF MR. NARAYAN AND OTHERS OUSTED IN ELECTIONS IN MARCH.

OUSTED AS PRIME MINISTER IN 1961

MR. KOIRALA WENT INTO EXILE IN INDIA IN 1968 AFTER SEVEN YEARS IN A NEPALESE PRISON FOLLOWING HIS OUSTER AS PRIME MINISTER IN 1961 BY BIRENDRA'S FATHER, THE LATE KING MAHENDRA. MAHENDRA BANNED ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, A BAN THAT CONTINUES. MEANWHILE, THE KING RULES WITH THE HELP OF A HANDPICKED UNELECTED CABINET AND A 146-MEMBER PARLIAMENT SELECTED WITH ROYAL APPROVAL.

MR. KOIRALA AND HIS ASSOCIATES WANT DEMOCRACY RESTORED.

THEY ARE SEEKING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL MON-
ARCHY.

MR. KOIRALA SAID THAT HE WANTS TO RETURN HOME EVEN
THOUGH HIS WIFE AND THREE SONS, WHO LIVED IN BENARES, INDIA,
WHILE HE WAS IMPRISONED, DO NOT WANT HIM TO GO.

"I FEEL THE KING HAS MADE A GESTURE BY RELEASING ME," HE
SAID, ADDING:
"I THINK I WILL GET A FAIR TRIAL. I THINK THAT BY JUST
BEING THERE, I WILL HOPEFULLY BE INSTRUMENTAL IN STARTING
A NEW DIALOGUE ON NEPAL'S FUTURE." VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MEDICAL CARE, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DRTELLEEN:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-0276
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770638/aaaabhqq.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4365e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2090997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: N.Y. TIMES INTERVIEW WITH B.P. KOIRALA
TAGS: PINT, NP, NEW YORK TIMES, (KOIRALA, B P)
To: KATHMANDU
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4365e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009